



City Administrator's Report

November 2008

Dear Reader,

Each month, this report from the City Administrator's Office provides a brief summary and update of major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Feel free to send me your comments and suggestions.

James L. Armstrong
jarmstrong@SantaBarbaraCA.gov
(805) 564-5301

Tony Ruggieri
truggieri@SantaBarbaraCA.gov
(805) 564-5311

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Key Meetings

City Council Meetings

Tuesday, November 11th, 18th, and 25th. City Hall's Council Chambers, 735 Anacapa Street, 2 p.m.

Community Events

E-Waste Collection Event

Friday, November 14th and Saturday, November 15th, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Recycle electronic waste at this event as part of "America Recycles Day." For details, visit the website at: www.sbrecycles.org.

30th Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon for People with Disabilities

Wednesday, November 26th at the Cabrillo Pavilion Arts Center, Noon. People with disabilities enjoy a Thanksgiving meal. For more information, call 564-5421.

Thanksgiving Holiday

Thursday, November 27th and Friday, November 28th, City offices closed.

23rd Annual Parade of Lights

Sunday, December 7th at the Santa Barbara Waterfront, 5:30 p.m. Watch the parade of boats decorated in colorful lights. For more information, visit the City's website at: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

City Employee Art Exhibit

December 2nd to January 5th at the Cabrillo Pavilion Arts Center on 1118 East Cabrillo Boulevard. City employees showcase their original artwork. Open to the public. For more information, call 897-1946.

Flags on State Street

<i>Veterans and Election Day</i>	November 3 to 12
<i>Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care</i>	November 12 to 21
<i>Unity Shoppe</i>	November 21 to December 8

City Administrator's Office

Economic Crisis Impact on City Finances. City Administrator Jim Armstrong recently issued a budget message to all City employees concerning the impacts of the current economic crisis on the City's finances. The message indicated that the City is already seeing the impacts of the national recession and the financial crisis on City revenues. This will especially impact the City's General Fund, which finances public safety, parks and recreation, community development, the library and administrative functions.

Preliminary indications are that General Fund is facing a \$3 to \$5 million shortfall for the current year. City staff are developing contingency plans for the remainder of this year and for next fiscal year. In the meantime, all employees have been asked to reduce overtime and all unnecessary expenditures. The hiring "chill" in place over the past year has been extended and only critical positions will be filled. At this point, enterprise operations such as the Airport, Waterfront, and the Water and Wastewater Utilities have not seen serious revenues losses. However, if the recession worsens, it will likely impact enterprise operations as well.

The message also discussed City's investments. The bottom line is that all City funds are invested safely and it is not envisioned that the City will incur any losses as a result of the economic crisis. Additionally, CalPERS' recent losses in the stock market will likely not affect PERS rates until the Fiscal Year 2011 budget. Benefits to retired or current employees are not affected.

The message noted that over the years, the Mayor and City Council have endorsed conservative financial practices and City finances have been well managed. As a result, there is no immediate crisis. However, the problem is serious and should not be minimized. The City is facing a period of reduced revenues that will strain the City budget and require cut backs, creativity, alternative revenue sources, and changes in the way in which the City does business.

Measure G Approved by Voters. Measure G was approved by Santa Barbara voters on November 4, 2008. Measure G will reduce the Utility User's Tax on telephone and cable TV services from 6% to 5.75%. Santa Barbara residents will start seeing a reduction in this tax on several bills including their telephone, cell phone, and cable TV bills. The City of Santa Barbara will begin working with utility companies immediately to reduce the Utility User's Tax on utility bills. Anyone who currently uses Internet-based telephone services such as Vonage can expect to see the 5.75% Utility Users Tax on their bills starting in approximately six months.

Watch Inside Santa Barbara. *Inside Santa Barbara* is City TV Channel 18's award-winning news magazine show. In this episode, viewers learn about Operation Gator Roll, Holiday Giving, Creek Week, Tsunami Drill, and City Advisory Group Recruitments. *Inside Santa Barbara* airs every Monday at 8 p.m., Tuesdays at 5 p.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., Saturdays at 9 p.m., and Sundays at 10 p.m. You can also watch *Inside Santa Barbara* on-line by visiting the City's website at: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

Administrative Services Department

Annual Day at MacKenzie Park. On September 10th, the City Clerk's Office staff hosted the 4th "Annual Day at MacKenzie" event at the City's Records Storage Center as part of the Citywide Records Management Program. The event provided an opportunity for staff from eight departments to review and organize stored records and to take advantage of on-site shredding and recycling services. Approximately 11,886 pounds of materials were shredded and recycled. These materials were approved by City Council to be destroyed as part of the ongoing Records Management Program.

A Job at the City: Great People, Pay, and Benefits. The City is looking for potential employees with experience and certification in water distribution to fill the positions of: Water Distribution Lead Operator, Senior Water Distribution Operator, and Water Distribution Equipment Operator. For more information and to apply on-line, visit the City's website at: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

Airport Department

Horizon Air to Sacramento Takes Flight. On November 10th, Mayor Blum 'cut the ribbon' for new non-stop service to Sacramento aboard Horizon Air. Currently Horizon flies non-stop to Portland and Seattle from Santa Barbara Airport (SBA). When the new non-stop service to Sacramento begins, the Portland flight will become a one-stop flight. The Seattle flight will continue as non-stop service since it is one of SBA's highest capacity flights.

Passenger Count Dips in September. More than 63,000 passengers arrived and departed at the Airport in September - a 4.1% decrease over the same month last year. The dip in passengers was due to the loss of Express Jet service to Sacramento and San Diego. The highest capacity flights were aboard American Eagle to Dallas/Ft. Worth (90%) and United to Denver (88%). Overall the passenger count is up 3.5% for the first 9 months over 2007.

Long Term Airport Parking Lot 2 Becomes Automated. Beginning November 17th, users of the long-term Parking Lot 2 off Hollister Avenue near Fairview Avenue can make automated payment via machine. Credit cards and cash are accepted for payment at the exit pay station. The lot will be open for business 24 hours a day, seven days week with a complimentary shuttle van operating every 10 minutes between the lot and the Airline Terminal.

Community Development Department

Planning Commission Update. Planning Commission will meet on November 13th and 20th. Items include:

November 13th: There will be a discussion meeting on *Plan Santa Barbara*, to finalize recommendations to City Council.

November 20th: The Planning Commission will hear an appeal of a Staff Hearing Officer denial of a lot line adjustment for 224-232 Eucalyptus Hill Drive. They will also consider a proposal for a rezone and five-lot subdivision at 210/216 Meigs and 290 Lighthouse; and hold a hearing for a proposed five-lot subdivision at 1642 Calle Canon.

City Council and Planning Commission Joint Work Session. On October 8th, the City Council and Planning Commission held their semi-annual work session to review major workload priorities for the Planning Division. Items discussed were a status report on *Plan Santa Barbara*, and the pending ordinances and guidelines in the Design Review and Historic Preservation Program. The primary topic of discussion was a possible interim ordinance and/or Charter Amendment related to building heights in commercial zones. The Council requested that Staff return to a regular Council meeting where direction could be provided to pursue a Charter Amendment for the November 2009 ballot that would offer an alternative to the citizen initiative to lower building height allowances from 60 feet to either 40 or 45 feet. A Council hearing for this matter is now set for November 18th at 6 p.m.

Hedge Ordinance. On October 14th, the City Council directed staff to prepare an ordinance to temporarily suspend application of the Municipal Code as it relates to hedges and vegetative screens, with exceptions allowed for public safety purposes. The Council's goal is to reduce neighborhood discord and allow for community discussion and review of a possible amendment to this section of the Municipal Code.

Finance Department

Recycling E-Waste. On Friday, November 14th and Saturday, November 15th, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., the City will be holding a free electronic waste collection and recycling event at the Sears parking lot on 3845 State Street in recognition of November 15th as "America Recycles Day." This event encourages the community to get rid of old televisions, computers and their accessories, monitors, laptops, printers, cables, cell phones, stereos, DVD and CD players, and microwaves. Most items that operate with an electric cord or run on batteries will be accepted. Items that cannot be collected at this event include batteries of any kind, compact or tubular fluorescent bulbs, large appliances, and toner cartridges.

September Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) down 1.9%. The decline comes on the heels of the 10.5% growth in August. The August growth was due in large part to the fact that August had five full weekends, while there were only four full weekends in August 2007. Additionally, the Labor Day holiday weekend fell at the end of August this year, and not in September. Year-to-date, TOT is up 3.8% over the same three-month period from last fiscal year. About 3.1% growth this year is needed to make budget.

Fire Department

Fire Assistance to Monterey County. During October, the Fire Department sent 18 firefighters and staff to assist at the Chalk Fire, located 22 miles southwest of King City in Monterey County. The Chalk Fire burned more than 16,000 acres. Fighting the fire was difficult due to the extremely steep terrain, but no structures were destroyed. As with all major mutual-aid assistance that the Fire Department is involved with, the City gets fully reimbursed for all expenses. This includes the cost to “backfill” with firefighters so that all city fire stations remain fully staffed while providing mutual aid assistance to other communities in need.

Library Department

Stand Up and Spell. *Stand Up and Spell*, the third annual Scrabble Challenge for Literacy, raised over \$6,000 for adult and family literacy programs at the Library. Dozens of local businesses donated refreshments and prizes, and about 100 players showed up to spend an evening playing word games to benefit the Library.

Santa Barbara Reads. Author Marilynne Robinson addressed a large crowd at the close of this year's *Santa Barbara Reads* program. Her appearance was co-sponsored by the Santa Barbara Public Library System and UCSB's Arts and Lectures Program. Two-hundred copies of her book, *Housekeeping*, were in constant circulation during September and October, and book discussions were held at the Central library and branches. There were also two screenings of the 1987 film adaptation of the book.

Guinness Book: Read for the Record. As part of a nationwide effort called “Read for the Record,” over one thousand local children at Public Library and Preschool story times helped shatter the Guinness Book record for the most children and adults reading the same book on the same day. Special story times took place at the Central, Eastside, Montecito, Carpinteria, and Goleta branches of the Public Library System. Local children had a special treat -- a thousand received free copies (in English or Spanish) of the book, Don Freeman's *Corduroy*. Freeman was a Santa Barbara resident and painted the beloved mural at the Children's section of the Central Library.

Literacy Night Honors National Lights On After School Program. The City's Parks and Recreation Department, in cooperation with the Santa Barbara School District, the Santa Barbara Public Library and the Diabetes Resource Center of Santa Barbara County, hosted a fun-filled day and evening of activities at Franklin School on October 16th. Students participated in a variety of after-school activities and Family Literacy Night to call attention to the importance of after-school programs for America's children and families. *Lights On After School* is a project of the Afterschool Alliance, a national non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring that all children have access to quality, affordable after-school programs.

Parks and Recreation

Douglas Family Preserve Community Restoration Day. The Parks Division, the Friends of the Douglas Family Preserve (DFP), and the Douglas Family Preserve Technical Advisory

Committee hosted a community restoration day on November 8th to prepare the ground for winter planting. The project will also receive support from Southern California Artists Painting for the Environment. The 70-acre DFP has a variety of native habitats that include coastal sage scrub, coastal bluff scrub, oak woodland, and riparian and estuarine habitats. Ground work included site preparation for coastal sage and grassland species, including a monarch butterfly habitat.

Healthy Creeks and Ocean. Pollution from streets and sidewalks is often washed into storm drains, creeks, and the ocean by storm water and urban runoff. This pollution includes trash, green waste, discarded household items, and human and animal waste. The trash and debris often carries with it heavy metals, pesticides, viruses, and bacteria that can be harmful to human health. To help address this problem, the Creeks Division has recently completed installation of storm drain screens at 117 catch basin openings in the Old Mission Creek watershed, Mission Creek, and the ocean near East Beach. This project is part of an ongoing effort to improve creek and ocean water quality .

New Director Hits the Links. On October 28th, the City Council approved the selection of Chris Talerico as the new Director of Golf for the Santa Barbara Golf Course. Chris has served 17 years under retiring Director of Golf, Richard Chavez. Chris also was the golf coach for Bishop Diego Garcia High School from 2000-2005. Both Richard and Chris will be recognized at the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on November 19th at 4 p.m. in City Hall. Chris will begin his new job on December 1st.

Thanksgiving Luncheon for Individuals with Disabilities Celebrates 30th Year. The Parks and Recreation Department Adapted Programs will host its 30th Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon for individuals with disabilities on Wednesday, November 26th at Noon. This very popular event, held at the Cabrillo Pavilion Arts Center, serves a traditional Thanksgiving meal to over 200 individuals with physical or developmental disabilities. If you would like to attend or volunteer, call 564-5421.

Franklin Neighborhood Center Renovation Project. The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department and the City of Santa Barbara held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly remodeled Franklin Clinic and Franklin Neighborhood Center on Thursday, October 30th. First District Supervisor Salud Carbajal, Congresswoman Lois Capps, and City and County dignitaries joined others to commemorate this addition to the Public Health facilities serving Santa Barbara County. The facility was open to the public for clinic tours, and for tenants to share information on their services. The project was a collaboration between the City and County of Santa Barbara. The City's Parks and Recreation Department provides social and recreation programs to local residents at the Center and the County operates a public health clinic.

Police Department

Operation Gator Roll. Operation Gator Roll started in September 2007 in response to the escalation of violence and prolific criminal activity attributed to the two largest criminal street gangs in the City. The first priority was to identify the most active participants and associates of criminal street gangs. Multiple law enforcement agencies participated in identifying 156 of the most active members of the Eastside gang.

On October 8, 2008, a federal Grand Jury indicted 28 members of the Eastside Criminal Street gang on racketeering, violent crimes, conspiracy and drug trafficking Charges.

On October 15, 2008, several agencies including the Santa Barbara Police Department, neighboring police and sheriffs departments, the FBI, and other law enforcement agencies, initiated an early morning gang crackdown at sixty locations throughout Santa Barbara. This resulted in the arrests of the most active gang members and associates of the Eastside gang.

To date, Operation Gator Roll has resulted in 227 arrests which include federal and state charges, including murder charges. In addition, 11 firearms, five ounces of heroin, 15 ounces of cocaine, one ounce of methamphetamine, two vehicles, and \$3,950 in cash were seized.

Public Works Department

Santa Teresita Drive Storm Drain Replacement Project Wins Award. In October 2008, the Los Angeles Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) awarded the Santa Teresita Drive Storm Drain Replacement Project as the “2008 Outstanding Government Civil Engineering Project.” This section of ASCE includes regions from the Southern San Joaquin Valley to Orange County. The award was presented at the ASCE’s Annual Los Angeles Section Installation and Awards Dinner at the Aquarium of the Pacific on October 4th. This project was previously given the “2008 Disaster or Emergency Repair/Construction Projects less than \$2 million” award for the Central Coast Chapter of at the American Public Works Association (APWA) at their 40th Annual Awards Dinner in May of 2008.

Bohnett Park Extension. On October 24th, the City completed construction of the Bohnett Park Expansion Project, located at 1302 San Andres Street. The new park includes a variety of unique art and creative elements surrounding low water-using plants. The most distinctive feature is the framework of a craftsman style single-family home. The interior of the “house” contains a concrete couch, planting “bed” complete with iron headboard, and drinking fountains constructed as kitchen and vanity sinks. The rear deck overlooks the recently restored Old Mission Creek. An artificial stream made of rubberized playground surfacing courses through sandstone boulders, and security lighting was installed to compliment the design.

Slurry Seal Project Update. The 2008 Slurry Seal Project is complete. Work was performed in the Upper State Street, San Roque and Samarkand areas. This year, the project included crack seal on every street in the areas, even if slurry was not placed. The intent of the slurry seal is to seal the streets to prevent water from damaging the sub-grade. The crack seal helps to seal the street even without the slurry seal on top.

Waterfront Department

Parade of Lights. On December 7th, put on your flappers and slick back your hair! We’re bringing back the roaring twenties in this year’s Parade of Lights theme, “23-Skidoo.” The boat parade begins at 5:30 p.m. Boats will travel from the harbor, past the Santa Barbara Yacht Club, down to East Beach, and return in front of the judging station at Stearns Wharf. Each boat will compete for prizes and year-long bragging rights. A five-minute fireworks display will immediately follow the parade at about 7:15 p.m. To ring in the event, Santa Claus will be

escorted by Santa Barbara Water Taxi's "Lil Toot," making a 3 p.m. appearance at Santa's Village at the City Pier in the Harbor. Santa's Village will include Junior High school carolers, 12 tons of snow and goodie bags prepared by Santa Barbara Maritime Museum. The annual boat parade event is a community favorite presented by the 2008 Parade of Lights Committee in conjunction with the Santa Barbara Harbor Merchant's Association, Stearns Wharf Business Association, Santa Barbara Yacht Club and the Waterfront Department.

Dredging in Santa Barbara Harbor. During the week of November 10th, the Army Corps of Engineers will begin performing the navigational channel dredge work in the Santa Barbara Harbor. The dredging is scheduled to finish by mid-December. An estimated 120,000 cubic meters of sand will be removed. The spring dredging cycle will begin in February 2009.